

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 /123 W
-----071441 180144Z /72

R 171950Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1119
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2386

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, TD, VE.
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN-TRINIDADIAN FISHING DISPUTE

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 959

1. ON TWO RECENT OCCASIONS, INCLUDING FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 16, NEWLY-ARRIVED VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR, DR. ABDELKADAR MARQUEZ GARCIA, HAS TAKEN HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC STANCE ON VENEZUELAN-TRINIDADIAN FISHING DISPUTE. AT AUGUST 16 PRESS CONFERENCE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT A FISHING AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED IN PORT OF SPAIN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF VENEZUELA AND TRINIDAD "IN A MATTER OF DAYS." MARQUEZ CLAIMED THAT ONLY SOME PROCEDURAL MATTERS REMAINED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE SIGNING. HE SAID THAT THE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF A TREATY GUARANTEEING FISHERMEN OF BOTH COUNTRIES THE RIGHT TO FISH AND TRAWL IN EACH OTHER'S TERRITORIAL WATERS. PERMITS WOULD BE ISSUED BY EACH GOVERNMENT TO THE

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FISHERMEN OF THE OTHER COUNTRY ISTNNS END. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO LONG-STANDING REPORTS THAT TRINIDADIAN FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN ABUSED WHILE IN VENEZUELAN CUSTODY, MARQUEZ STRESSED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CONDONE OR TOLERATE THE ILL-TREATMENT OF ANY PERSONS FOUND IN VENEZUELAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. MARQUEZ'S DECLARATIONS RECEIVING BANNER PLAY IN LOCAL PRESS.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO MARQUEZ'S STATEMENT, EMBOFF HAD OCCASION TO QUERY CHIEF OF THE LEGAL DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DEAN AZIZ, ON STATUS THIS MATTER. AZIZ APPEARS CONSIDERABLY LESS SANGUINE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE NOTED THAT THE GOV HAD NOT YET RESPONDED TO THE LATEST GOTT PROPOSALS (NOT SPECIFIED) MADE EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND SAID BALL REMAINS IN VENEZUELA'S COURT. AZIZ ADDED THAT HE HOPES THAT MARQUEZ'S REMARKS INDICATE THAT THE GOV NOW READY MOVE AHEAD ON THOSE PROPOSALS, BUT HE KNOWS OF NO RPT NO DRAFT TREATY READY FOR SIGNING.

3. FOR CARACAS. DOES EMBASSY HAVE ANY INFO INDICATING GOV IS IN FACT PREPARED TO TAKE STEPS NOW TOWARD SOLVING THIS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM, OR IS MARQUEZ SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF ALONE ON THIS ISSUE?
FOX

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING DISPUTES, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation History:
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